

Childhood Cancer - Symptoms and Signs [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 03/2014

ON THIS PAGE: You will find out more about body changes and other things that can signal a problem that may need medical care. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Cancer can be hard to detect in children. Children with cancer may experience the following symptoms or signs. Sometimes, children with cancer do not show any of these symptoms. Or, these symptoms may be caused by a medical condition that is not cancer.

Many of the symptoms can be described using an acronym provided by [The Pediatric Oncology Resource Center](#) [3].

Continued, unexplained weight loss

Headaches, often with early morning vomiting

Increased swelling or persistent pain in the bones, joints, back, or legs

Lump or mass, especially in the abdomen, neck, chest, pelvis, or armpits

Development of excessive bruising, bleeding, or rash

Constant, frequent, or persistent infections

A whitish color behind the pupil

Nausea that persists or vomiting without nausea

Constant tiredness or noticeable paleness

Eye or vision changes that occur suddenly and persist

Recurring or persistent fevers of unknown origin

If you are concerned about one or more of the symptoms or signs on this list, please talk with your child's doctor. Your doctor will ask how long and how often your child has been experiencing the symptom(s), in addition to other questions. This is to help find out the cause of the problem, called a [diagnosis](#) [4].

If cancer is diagnosed, relieving symptoms remains an important part of cancer care and treatment. This may also be called symptom management, palliative care, or supportive care. Be sure to talk with your child's health care team about symptoms your child experiences, including any new symptoms or a change in symptoms.

The next section helps explain what tests and scans may be needed to learn more about the cause of the symptoms. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select [Diagnosis](#), or you can

select another section, to continue reading this guide.

Links:

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/childhood-cancer/symptoms-and-signs>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.ped-onc.org/>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18693>